



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 191

January Session, 2009

Substitute Senate Bill No. 910

Senate, March 25, 2009

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. SLOSSBERG of the 14th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT STATUS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2010*) Any elector who is
- 2 permanently disabled and who files an application for an absentee
- 3 ballot with a certification from a primary care provider, indicating that
- 4 such elector is permanently disabled and unable to appear in person at
- 5 such elector's designated polling location, shall be eligible for
- 6 permanent absentee ballot status and shall receive an application for
- 7 an absentee ballot for each election, primary or referendum conducted
- 8 in such elector's municipality for which such elector is eligible to vote.
- 9 Such elector's permanent absentee ballot status shall remain in effect
- 10 until such elector: (1) Is removed from the official registry list of the
- 11 municipality, (2) is removed from permanent absentee ballot status
- 12 pursuant to the provisions of this section, or (3) requests that he or she
- 13 no longer receive such permanent absentee ballot status. The registrars
- 14 of voters shall send written notice to each such elector with permanent

15 absentee ballot status in January of each year, on a form prescribed by
 16 the Secretary of the State, for the purpose of determining if such elector
 17 continues to reside at the address indicated on the elector's permanent
 18 absentee ballot application. If such written notice is not returned
 19 within thirty days or returned as undeliverable, the elector in question
 20 shall be removed from permanent absentee ballot status. If such elector
 21 indicates on such notice that the elector no longer resides at such
 22 address and the elector's new address is within the same municipality,
 23 the registrars of voters shall change the elector's address pursuant to
 24 section 9-35 of the general statutes and such elector shall retain
 25 permanent absentee ballot status. If the elector indicates on such notice
 26 that the elector no longer lives in the municipality, the registrars of
 27 voters shall remove such individual from the registry list of the
 28 municipality and send such individual an application for voter
 29 registration. Failure to return such written notice shall not result in the
 30 removal of an elector from the official registry list of the municipality.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>January 1, 2010</i>	New section
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Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

Technical changes were made to sentence structure for purposes of clarity and accuracy.

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill makes electors with permanent disabilities eligible for permanent absentee ballot status and allows them to receive an absentee ballot for each election, primary, and referendum in the municipality for which they are able to vote. This is similar to current practice and therefore there is no fiscal impact anticipated.

The Out Years

None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 910*****AN ACT CONCERNING PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT STATUS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill makes electors with permanent disabilities eligible for permanent absentee ballot status. Until they are removed from the permanent absentee ballot list pursuant to the bill or from the town's official registry list, or request not to receive the ballots, they receive an absentee ballot for each election, primary, and referendum in the municipality in which they are eligible to vote.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2010

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for permanent absentee ballot status, electors must file an absentee ballot application together with a doctor's certificate stating that they have a permanent disability and are unable to appear in person at their polling place.

ANNUAL NOTICE TO DETERMINE ONGOING ELIGIBILITY

The registrars of voters must send an annual written notice in January, on a form the secretary of the state prescribes, to determine if electors with this status continue to reside at the address on their permanent absentee ballot application. The registrars:

1. remove electors from permanent absentee ballot status if they do not return the notice within 30 days or the notice is returned as undeliverable;
2. remove from the municipal registry list and send a voter registration application to electors who moved out of town; and

3. leave on permanent absentee ballot status and change the address of electors who indicate that they have moved within the same municipality.

Under the bill, registrars cannot remove from the official municipal registry an elector who fails to return the notice.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 2 (03/06/2009)